

# Zionist leaders foresee loss of Israel backing



NUSSBAUM

Two past presidents of the Zionist Organization of America warned in Houston Saturday that the appointment of Henry Kissinger as Secretary of State and the Watergate situation could harm American support of Israel in the Middle East.

The two—Jacques Torczyner of New York and Rabbi Max Nussbaum of Hollywood, Calif.—said, President Nixon's power loss from Watergate may "encourage congressional leaders favoring a more isolationist foreign policy to seek a reduction in U.S. military and diplomatic backing of Israel."

Their comments came at the Zionist groups four-day convention at the Houston Oaks Hotel. The convention ends Sunday.

Nussbaum said Kissinger, who is Jewish, could "be compelled by historic cir-

cumstances beyond his control" to appease Arabs to demonstrate that his objectivity on the Middle East is not influenced.

Nussbaum, who called Kissinger "capable and brilliant," told the 400 Zionist members attending the convention that some Jewish leaders in high government posts in the past showed leniency "beyond the call of duty" toward militant Arabs.

Torczyner said Kissinger's State Department appointment could be helpful to Israel. He said the secretary could "mute the voices of the State Department's pro-Arabist faction" who may "seek to reassert their influence after Secretary (William) Rogers' departure."

While Congress is still predominantly pro-Israel, Torczyner said, "powerful

spokesmen of isolationism" such as Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright "may seize on Nixon's Watergate troubles" to press for American disengagement abroad.

This could mean attempts to lessen financial and arms support of Israel, Torczyner said.

Oil shortages could bring the United States closer to the Arab countries, Nussbaum warned.

"We are in for an intensified propaganda campaign in the United States, financed by both the Arabs and American oil companies," Nussbaum said, adding that the threat "has to be taken seriously because the weapon the Arabs are using this time is quite deadly."



TORCZYNER

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## Kissinger May Tend To Mollify Arabs, Zionist Leader Fears

A national Zionist leader said here Saturday that the appointment of Henry Kissinger as secretary of state may have an adverse effect on U.S. relations with Israel.

Rabbi Max Nussbaum of Hollywood, Cal., a former president of the Zionist Organization of America, said Kissinger, a Jew, may tend to mollify the Arab states "to show that his Jewishness does not make him a partisan in the Middle East conflict."

Nussbaum, speaking at the 76th ZOA national convention

in the Houston Oaks Hotel, said Kissinger was "capable and brilliant."

But, he said, Kissinger may be compelled to make a show of friendship to the Arab nations because his appointment already has been dubbed "a victory for the Zionists" in the Arab press.

Another past president of the ZOA, Jacques Torczyner of New York, said Israel also stands to suffer a loss of U. S. support as an indirect result of the Watergate scandal.

Torczyner said isolationists in Congress "may seize on President Nixon's Watergate troubles to press for greater U.S. disengagement abroad."

He said a renewal of isolationism in the United States would mean less financial and military support for Israel, "a potentially catastrophic stroke, given Israel's reliance on the United States alone among the big powers."

### 'LEGISLATURE OF 1000 DRINKS'

San Jose, Cal. (UPI)—California's first legislature met in a two-story adobe building here in 1849. It was known as the "Legislature of a Thousand Drinks."

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